Term 3, No 1 – Friday 29 July 2011

Message from the Head of Senior Years

Boarder Parent Association Meeting
Next Friday afternoon (5 August) we will convene the Annual General Meeting of the Boarder Parent Association. Time flies! With the imminent completion of studies by Year 12 students it is time to elect the new office bearers for the 2011-2012 year. This is the perfect time to attend the meeting to support the Boarder Parent Association and place nominations for the key areas of responsibility. Parent involvement at this level is vital. We require a robust relationship between Boarders’ families and the College and this is only possible if a number of parents actively participate. The responsibilities are not onerous, yet are essential to ensure the Boarder Parent Association continues to add value to the College. Boarding is a partnership between home and the College and the Association is a formal conduit of discussion, input and feedback. The Association is of great value as it helps the College to be the best that it can.

Please consider nominating for the position of President, Vice-President, Secretary or Year Coordinator. May I also take this opportunity to thank Mr Alan Liddle and his team of helpers for their contribution in 2011. I believe significant progress has been made across the Boarding School. Phil Cooney and I were pleased to be able to pick up the file of feedback and concerns from the 2010 parent workgroups in 2010 as a starting point at the beginning of this year and we look forward to continuing progress on matters during the next 12 months.

Boarder Parent Social Function

Following the AGM, on Friday 5 August, a social function for all Boarding parents will take place at the Lord Dudley Hotel, Woollahra, commencing at 7:00pm. Invitations have been sent via email to all families and RSVP is essential in order to confirm your attendance and arrange payment prior to the event. Tickets cost $50.00 per head and include drinks and finger food. Payment must be made by Tuesday 2 August and can be made by referring to the ‘Events’ payment option at https://quickweb.westpac.com.au/TSC or visit the College Website www.tsc.nsw.edu.au and select the online payment option under ‘Useful Links’.

Prospective Boarding parents have also been invited and we hope many choose to attend. We look forward to strong attendance at this event and encourage your involvement. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet other boarder parents, catch up with friends and get to know the staff who work with your boys. Payments will be accepted up to Tuesday 2nd August.

Should you have any questions about the function please do not hesitate to contact Deb Allworth on 0428 896 329.

Keeping our Boarding Environment Safe
Keeping our boys safe is our highest priority. Protecting boys of all ages from inappropriate influences and activities presents a challenge that we must not shy away from. Prior to the digital age, student access to pornography was
incredibly limited. Today, technology makes management of this issue more challenging, and requires taking deliberate steps to ensure illicit material is purged. During my career I have sadly witnessed a number of adolescents succumb to addiction. Not only to drugs, but also pornography. Both of these materials damage the young teenage brain, altering perspective and the senses.

The internet is an adult world and un-vetted access places the boys at risk. Although The Scots College information technology network has robust protections, many students have mobile phones with internet capability and the existence of mobile data storage devices means that pornographic material can be distributed with relative ease. This week our Housemasters have reminded all boys of the serious consequences of possession of such material. Random searches of all memory storage devices will take place across all Houses to ensure the integrity of the Scots community is maintained. Please do not hesitate to contact your Housemaster should you have any concerns about the internet access that you have made available to your son or the random appearance of mobile hard drives at home, or the iPod that appears ‘full’, but does not seem to contain much content.

As always, may I encourage you to never sit on a concern, regardless of the context in which it occurs; I would very much like to hear from you.

Mr Tim Browning
Head of Senior Years and Director of Admissions

Message from the Dean of Boarding

As Term 3 commences we begin to acknowledge the final official term for Scots Year 12 Boarders. It is a period of transition where they begin to say goodbye to the place that has provided them a home, for in some cases six or more years, and for many, a lifetime’s worth of fond memories, camaraderie and personal growth. As the boys begin to look to a life beyond the College it is important that we ensure that they remain safe and supported in what will be a frantic period. Currently their focus should be on preparation for HSC trial examinations, which will commence on 8 August and conclude on 19 August. If boys wish to return home during extended breaks between exams or at their conclusion this may be negotiated with the respective Boarding Housemaster. It has been conveyed to the boys that whilst they remain at the College they still need to comply with all the relevant boarding protocols and procedures. In doing this we try to ensure that each boy leaves with a positive legacy and with a real sense of credibility in the eyes of the College and its wider community. On the evening of Wednesday 21 September, the College will host a dinner for the Year 12 Boarders and their parents in the College dining room. This will provide an opportunity for us as a community to formally acknowledge the contribution of the Year 12 Boarders and farewell them in a fitting manner. Invitations and details will be sent shortly.

Currently we are examining ways in which we can further extend leadership opportunities to boys in Scots Boarding community. Living in a residential situation provides the Boarders with many opportunities to develop leadership skills that can be transferred and utilised in real world situations. Acknowledging this, the Boarding Housemasters are creating a program of leadership development that will extend across all year groups, giving individual boys a sense of team leadership and contribution.
This term will see the continuance of Scots activities program for all years. Last term, many Junior boys were active in the Friday Night Live program, whilst other year groups enjoyed three social dances, a Sunday afternoon orientation on the College Small Bore Target Range and go-carting at Tempe Circuit. Planning is currently in progress for a Sunday at Luna Park and beach fishing at Bondi. In Week 3 each Senior Boarding House will host its own barbecue night in lieu of dinner in the dining room. This will provide an opportunity for boys to relax and socialise. The Year 7 boys will attend their Senior House and have that all important opportunity to mix with boys from all year groups.

Finally, please remember that the last week of term will see the conduct of the co-curricular camps and activities week. This will see some boys off-site on various activities and camps. Boys will be free to travel at the conclusion of their relevant activities on the Thursday, however, Boarders travel day will remain on Friday 23 September with the usual county link travel.

Best wishes for Term 3.

Mr Phil Cooney
Dean of Boarding

Message from the Boarding Liaison Officer

Last weekend saw the final Boarding Expo held in regional NSW for 2011. Over two dozen boarding schools were in attendance at the Tamworth Town Hall for the Expo.

The Expos provide a wonderful service for regional parents weighing up their options in relation to the significant decision to send their child away to board.

- Will it provide sufficient additional benefits over local alternatives?
- Will regional boarding options provide sufficient opportunities over those found in a Sydney school?
- How well does a particular school’s expectations align with the values and hopes for their son’s personal and academic growth?
- Every school at the Expo extols their expertise in providing pastoral care, but what does that look like and feel like, and does the school actually ‘walk the talk’?

With each of the forays I’ve had the pleasure to take into regional NSW over the years, I am constantly affirmed by the fact our regional Boarding families have considered the above very carefully – well before placing their sons into our care. The litmus test for my wife (Deb) and I has always been: if we were entrusting our son’s care to strangers, would we have made the same decision for the same reasons when our sons were teenagers?

Finally, with regional boarding numbers burgeoning here at Scots (not just at present, but for the foreseeable future), we can be heartened by the fact that the efforts of the boarding, teaching, administrative and coaching staff can be seen to be meeting the needs of boarding parents.
It remains a real privilege and pleasure for Deb and I to visit current parents, often with them graciously opening their homes to us. The perspective it brings in knowing where boys are from and their unique backgrounds is invaluable in a classroom setting or Boarding House.

Mr Peter Graham
Boarding Liaison Officer

Key Dates for Boarder Parents

**Friday 5 August**
Boarder Parent Association Meeting

**Friday 5 August**
Boarder Parent Social Drinks

**Friday 23 September**
Boarder Travel Day